Dublin, Oct. 19. 1855

Dear Mr May

There was an error of 8/4 in the first page of my account. It was not made by me, but I should have checked the account and am responsible for it. The error was against myself and it reduces the balance on page 1 to £12.16.5 and that on page 2 to £21.17.11. This sum I now send in the shape of a draft on New York, as I could not get one on Boston. I prefer to send the whole balance, in order to clear off old scores, and to begin a new account. It is no inconvenience whatever to me – and small sums presently drop in quite sufficient to cover any outlay I may have to make on your behalf.

The 5½d on the Una is a small discrepancy you pointed out in my two statements. I put it in to keep you harmless, and to ease my own conscience.

When the Reports come, I will attend to Professor Nichol and Rev. Walter Scott.

I have written J. R. Jeaves, Baltic Buildings, Liverpool, who manages any little anti Slavery business, to have an eye after the Chatsworth & her freight.

My memorandum about Mr McDonnell's papers corresponds with yours. He has paid to Jan. 1, 1856

In the original list of Memorandum sent by Mr Wallcutt, Dr Hutton is set down as having paid to Jan. 1, 1855. He has paid me once only since, & has therefore only paid to Jan. 1, 1856, & not 1857. Mr Wallcutt may feel satisfied that this is the case. Nobody has ever paid me so regularly as Dr Hutton.

I would have written to you last week, but that I waited for an answer to my application to Mr Mawson of Newcastle for a Bill of Particulars of the £5 he handed Pillsbury (who gave it to me) No answer has come to hand. You had better hand the money to Mr Wallcutt, for I am nearly sure it was all on account of the Liberator, to pay off old scores for himself and others. I do not believe Pillsbury knows, and he appears to write with such pain to himself, that I am extremely unwilling to apply to him unless in a case of absolute necessity. I will endeavour to find out from Mr Mawson how the money is to be appropriated, & will send you word, if possible, by Mrs. Chapman.

Anna Richardson has entirely declined the offered visits of Julia Griffiths, who is now in Dublin on a visit to an (I am told) unwilling hostess, who is a far more active and zealous enemy of the Am. A. S. Society than ever Anna Richardson was. I allude to a cousin of my own, Miss Maria Webb, a clever and not very scrupulous woman (when she has any hostility to gratify.) She hates the Am. Society with a perfect hatred, on orthodox grounds, and is never done trying to injure it. Mr Garrison knows her, and soon saw the contorted character of her moral perceptions. Anna Richardson is one whom I like and respect very much more, do than my relation.

I think with you that any small charges I am put in postage & forwarding had better be charged by me. I have been prevented from doing so by an uncertainty ~~th~~ lest I was putting expense upon you; and an unwillingness to appear particular about small matters. If you take care to get repaid for any charges I make of this kind, I will be apt to communicate more freely & the business between us will perhaps be ~~really~~ better and more cheaply done.

When you suggested "the portraits to Nell" as accounting for the erroneous 8/4, you did not remark perceive that on page 2 of my account those portraits are duly accounted for in the last item but one of the Dr. ~~Ht~~ side.

I thank you for Oldbuck and will credit you for the 1/8d.

Have I told you to change Mr. Cotterell's address to Mr. Samuel Saunders, Greenway Lodge, Bath?

Wm Shortt tells me his Liberator does not come regularly. His address is 11, William St., Dublin.

I fear it would do little good to interfere between Pillsbury & Thompson. I imagine P's confidence in him is totally gone. All I have ever said to P. has been to mitigate his wrath and indignation. But I do not think they are likely to come into collision, or to have any further personal intercourse.

The most objectionable piece of writing I ever saw, as if from Thompson's pen, is commented upon in the last Advocate. Mrs Nichol thinks it is his writing. I am confident it is not, and his son in law Chesson wrote to tell me that he did not write it, &

greatly regretted its insertion. This I am confident is the case. The article is altogether malignant and unworthy of a respectable paper, besides its decidedly provoking character. If Thompson were a proper business man, no such article could find its way into a paper under his management.

You may entirely rely that anything you say of Pillsbury or any one else shall be kept to myself (and Mrs Webb, who is a good keeper of secrets) as private and confidential. I would not say such things to you as I have said, for the mere sake of gossip — but I think there should be as complete and unreserved confidence as possible between two persons in the position which we occupy towards the cause & each other.

I have no hostility to Thompson — my feelings towards him are, and ought to be, those of kindness. He is greatly to be loved, admired & felt for. Few men under his difficulties, temptations, and circumstances could have done so bravely or so kindly. But I fear he has got into a fix which he cannot easily get out of. I was unwilling to make the comments I did in last Advocate; but I could not honestly ~~[illegible]~~ omit doing so.

About the Advocate, it would go very hard with me before I could let it die. It is a pet of mine. Miss Estlin says that for a year ~~or~~ or so at least her uncle & herself will continue their help — and as to any help given by any body towards it, it was given by people who could afford it & for a very good cause. I do not know that it has been a real burden to any one. It is a real pleasure to me to be, or to think I am, of some service in the anti-slavery cause — and to have

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the privilege of personal and epistolary intercourse which it opens to me with yourself and others (both men and women) whom I respect and sympathize with above all other human beings.

Miss Estlin has been for many weeks past with Miss Wigham of Edinburgh, whom she first met while paying her first visit to Dublin, with her honorable father, in 1851 or 1852. They are now fast friends. Miss Wigham is the sheet anchor of the anti slavery cause in Scotland, & is a remarkably amiable & noble hearted young woman — not very young indeed, but very lovely, and she will be so if she lives to ninety. I do not know whether you have heard how overwhelmed Miss Es was, by letters of condolence after her fathers death. I believe she got upwards of 300 — which she has found it a real burden to answer, in addition to her heavy regular correspondence. She has been much afflicted with headaches, & is obliged to look on the memoir of her father (which I hope may only be a private one) as a work for the future. His excellence was extraordinary, yet it was not of that kind which makes up the material of such a life as the public care for or can appreciate.

As to the dates for the Standard I know nothing, & have never got the list from Gay.

I mean to keep clear of money ~~[illegible]~~ in any dealings with you in future. I have found this account just as troublesome & perplexing as you describe to be your experience.

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In the last letter I had from Pillsbury he writes as if we should hardly see him in Ireland again. He dreads sea sickness. The truth is there is little for him to do here. But we would like him to feel that we have always a home and a welcome for him and that he need never feel at a loss for either while our home remains in its present place. All that you say in praise of him I know and feel, and I have nothing to ~~claim~~ complain of on account of his infirmities which affect himself more than ~~[illegible]~~ any one else and should only be looked on by others as honorable scars. My feelings towards him are those of respect and reverence.

You kindly ask for my son. He returned home on the 10th of last month and is now sitting on the opposite side of the office desk at which I write. He left home for his health, was away more than two years — struggled through much difficulty and danger — worked very hard, & turned his hand to many things with something of Yankee versatility. He looks greatly improved, is much stronger & has learned a great deal. When he left home I did not know his opinions on slavery, temperance & other subjects that have attracted much of my attention. I never liked to bore my children, and although I had occasion to talk a good deal before them on matters that interested me, I allowed them to form their

our vindication. While he was away he
sent me — no not he — but a friend of his
sent me a copy of the Melbourne Argus
containing a long letter from "An American"
in defence & laudation of Webster's proslavery
course with another containing a reply by my
son which was really creditable & extremely
gratifying to me. He is a very good
fellow and has settled down very pleasantly
to attend me in my business. Henry C.
Wright, who knows him, will be glad to
hear of his safe return.

Some few years ago I got for a friend here
some volumes of the collected edition of De
Quincey's Works. I don't know whether I could
get the rest of which I send a memorandum.
Perhaps Ticknor & Fields could send them for
me to Mr John O'Neill, 4, Crown Court, Old
Broad Street, London. and along with them an
American reprint of Sydney Smith's Life and Letters.
If there is any difficulty or complication about
them don't trouble yourself. If it could be readily
managed I would be glad. I do not like
to refuse to enquire as I am under some
obligations to the person who wants them.

With kindest regards to all our mutual friends
I am Yours ever truly

Richd D Webb

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